

Public Protection Committee

Date	8 March 2005
Venue	Lowther Pavilion, Lytham
Committee members	Dawn Prestwich (Chairman) Elizabeth Clarke (Vice-Chairman) Christine Akeroyd, Elizabeth Clarkson, Susan Fazackerley, Stephen Mason, Janine Owen, Heather Speak, Martin Taylor, Ronald Wilson, Keith Wright
Other Councillors	Kevin Eastham, Paul Hayhurst
Officers	Ian Curtis, Mark Evans, Clare Holmes, Chris Hambley, Stuart Handley, - Lyndsey Lacey, Andrew Lee

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Public Protection Committee meeting held on 2 December 2004 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Substitute members

Councillor Heather Speak was at the meeting as substitute for Councillor Kiran Mulholland, as allowed by council procedure rule 22.3

4. Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1990: Hurst Lea Caravan Site

Stuart Handley (Commercial Licensing Manager) reported receipt of an application to amend condition 23, relating to the occupancy of caravans at the Hurst Lea Caravan Site, Cartford Lane Little Eccleston. Members considered that the application raised issues regarding the interaction of different regulatory regimes, which would warrant consideration at a community forum.

The Committee RESOLVED to defer consideration of the application to enable officers to obtain more information and to enable the Scrutiny Management Board to consider scheduling a scrutiny review of the policy issues.

5. Derestriction of hackney carriage licence numbers

Chris Hambley (Licensing Officer) reported on a request from the Department for Transport to justify a policy of restricting the number of hackney carriage licences issued in the Borough. Details on this matter were set out in the report.

The Committee was asked to consider three options:

Option 1 - To continue to restrict the limit of taxi numbers

Option 2 - to de-restrict the number of hackney carriages but to limit new licenses to wheelchair-accessible vehicles

Option 3 - to de-restrict with no further conditions.

A general debate took place and the committee RESOLVED:

1. to adopt the following policy in relation to all additional Hackney Carriage licence applications:

“To grant additional Hackney Carriage vehicle licences on application to vehicles less than a year old at the time of the initial grant of the Hackney Carriage licence. The vehicle shall be a vehicle, which conforms to the Conditions of Fitness as laid down by the Metropolitan Police and the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 until further conditions are issued by the Department for Transport concerning technical requirements. It shall be a requirement that upon issue of the licence, the vehicle must always conform to the above standards.”

2. To present in six months time an updated report to Committee on the suitability of the above policy.

3. To arrange at the earliest opportunity an informal meeting of the Public Protection Committee and the Quality Taxi Partnership.

6. Exclusion of the public

RESOLVED - That under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

7. Private hire driver application

Chris Hambley (Licensing Officer) reported receipt of a private hire driver application. A copy of the report had previously been circulated to each member of the committee.

RESOLVED - 1.To approve the application of CR subject to him undertaking a medical examination every 12 months.

Reasons

The applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a private hire driver's licence. He is in receipt of an adequate medical report and his condition is now under control.

2. To undertake review the existing group 2 policy at the next meeting of the Public Protection Committee
